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Southern Regional Education Board Applauds Louisiana's e-SGR Program

Louisiana's e-SGR (electronic-learning Support for Guard and Reserve) program, which allows students activated for military duty to continue their studies via the internet while stationed abroad, received high praise at a meeting of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in Charleston, South Carolina, on November 13. The SREB is an organization of 16 southern states chartered to help government and education leaders work cooperatively to advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region.

As part of a discussion highlighting accomplishments in higher education across the South during the Thursday meeting of SREB's Executive Committee, the e-SGR program, currently unique to Louisiana, was held up as an example of how states can go the extra mile to accommodate students.

"The SREB Executive Committee wholeheartedly endorsed Louisiana's e-SGR initiative as a model for other states to emulate," said SREB President Mark Musick. "It's an excellent initiative, and we encourage other states to adopt it and adapt it to their own circumstances."

University of Louisiana System President Dr. Sally Clausen, a member of the SREB Executive Committee, attended the meeting.

"As Louisiana students leave our institutions to serve their country, e-SGR and Louisiana's electronic classroom provide a means for us to stay connected with them," said Clausen. "It helps us make sure they don't lose dollars, credit or opportunities."

Through e-SGR Louisiana public college and university students called to active duty while enrolled in classes, where duties and location allow, are able to continue their studies via Louisiana's "Electronic Campus," as well as a host of other e-learning opportunities. The program is an outgrowth of the Louisiana ESGR (Employer Support for Guard and Reserve) program, which works to foster business support for employees who are members of the National Guard or military reserve.

Louisiana's Electronic Campus is a catalog of more than 700 courses, including 13 complete degree programs, available from public colleges and universities across the state, conducted via the internet. In cases where the electronic equivalents of courses needed by activated students are available through the system (whether from the campus where the student was enrolled or elsewhere), arrangements can be made for students to earn some of their needed credit while activated, thereby reducing the delay in degree completion that might otherwise

SREB Applauds e-SGR
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result from extended activation.

“Louisiana is a national leader in the delivery of ‘electronic learning,’” said Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie. “The e-SGR program is one way Louisiana is making the most of our educational resources to serve our students. We are particularly pleased to be able to help meet the needs of the men and women who are putting their lives on the line in the service of our country. And we’re also pleased that SREB is recognizing the value of the program. Their recognition should help pave the way for other states to serve their ‘soldier-students’ in similar ways.”

For more information on Louisiana’s e-SGR program, contact the Louisiana Board of Regents at (225) 342-4253, or visit the Regents website at www.regents.state.la.us.

- 30 -